

**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is filed concurrently with the above referenced CPA, and further to the amendment filed on September 7, 2000 in response to the Final Official Action of July 7, 2000, the entry of which is requested in the CPA submittal.

Upon entry of the Amendment filed on September 7, 2000, claims 1-7, 21, 25 and 34-35, 38-45, 48-56, and 59-61 will be pending in this application. Claims 6-7, 42-43, 52-53 and 55 are cancelled and claims 2-3, 6-7, 35, 41-43, 45, 51-53, 56, and 60-61 are amended herein solely for clarification and not to further distinguish over the art which has been previously applied in the parent case. New claims 62-67 are added. Claims 1, 21, 25, 41, 59, 60, and 62-67 are independent.

*now  
restructured!*  
New claims 62-67 are added to recite the invention in a somewhat different manner. Each of the new claims is believed to independently distinguish over the applied prior art for reasons which should be clear from the remarks submitted with the July 7, 2000 amendment. ??

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the

filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 12-0427 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lalos & Keegan



Alfred A. Stadnicki  
Registration No. 30,226

1146 Nineteenth Street, NW  
Fifth Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20036-3703  
Telephone (202) 887-5555  
Facsimile (202) 296-1682  
Date: November 7, 2000